enlight atlanta

promoting equality in our schools

Enlight Atlanta
P.O. Box 8597 • Atlanta, GA 31106
Phone 404.872.4320
Email info@enlight-atlanta.org

http://www.enlight-atlanta.org

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What is Enlight Atlanta? We are the only organization devoted entirely to ending bias and harassment, based on actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity, in our K-12 schools. Enlight Atlanta brings together concerned students, parents, educators, and citizens from all walks of life, in order to combat the destructive effects of discrimination.

Enlight Atlanta Activities: Our goal is to create safer schools for all students and educators. Our work focuses on three main areas:

Education: Enlight Atlanta works with school districts to enhance their programming and curriculum to address the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning students and educators. We provide panel discussions, awareness training workshops, and educational resources for concerned students, parents, educators, and citizens. We encourage participation in the national Student Pride network, which brings together more than 800 high school gay/straight student alliances and fosters understanding and awareness of sexual orientation and gender identity issues.

Advocacy: Enlight Atlanta seeks to change the hearts and minds of policy makers and educational leaders who determine what is happening in our schools. Through our programs, we put a human face on the issue of bias and harassment based on actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity. Through grassroots education and media awareness campaigns, Enlight Atlanta informs and encourages those who have the power to act.

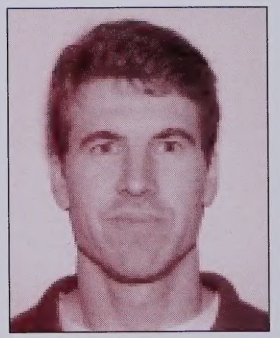
Community Involvement: Since 1995, Enlight Atlanta has built a solid infrastructure upon which to grow. Our volunteer recruitment, orientation, and training programs ensure that our volunteers are able to be most effective in standing up against intolerance, apathy, and violence in our schools.

Too many students and educators continue to live their lives in shame or fear because of ignorance. Enlight Atlanta is the antidote for this.

Efia Miles, Student

Enlight Atlanta provides support, strategies and **hope** *for being out – and* **more** *out – in the faculty room, in the classroom and to oneself.*

Glen Peppel, Teacher



All children have the right to a safe school that promotes a positive learning environment. Our children need to feel safe in school.

Judy Colbs, Parent

MISSION STATEMENT

To end bias and harassment, based on actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity, in our K-12 schools.

We welcome as members and volunteers any and all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity, who share this philosophy.

Results of School Climate Studies

69% of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth reported experiencing some form of harassment or violence in school.

97% of all students in public high schools reported regularly hearing homophobic remarks from peers.

39% of LGBT youth surveyed reported that no one ever intervened when homophobic remarks were made in school.

53% of all students reported hearing homophobic comments made by school staff.

42% of LGBT youth do not feel safe in their schools because they are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender.

Students who said they had experienced anti-gay harassment were 4 times as likely as non-harassed youth to say they had been threatened with or injured by someone with a weapon at school in the past 12 months, and 7 times as likely to report having missed at least one day of school in the past month out of fear for their safety.

Gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth are more than 4 times more likely than their peers to have attempted suicide in the past 12 months.

Sources: Eighty-Three Thousand Youth, The Safe Schools Coalition of Washington, 1999; GLSEN National School Climate Survey, 1999; Making Schools Safe for Gay and Lesbian Youth: Report of the Massachusetts Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth, 1993; The Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and The Massachusetts Department of Education, 1997.

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- ❑ Yes, I want to support the efforts of Enlight Atlanta to promote equality and safety in our schools.

Please print clearly.

Name _____

Address _____

_____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Phone / Work _____

Phone / Home _____

Best time to call _____

Email _____

- ❑ I want to volunteer. *Their are many ways to help!*
- ❑ I know parents, students, educators and others who would support this cause.
- ❑ I am aware of a need that Enlight Atlanta can address.
- ❑ I want to donate: ❑ Check enclosed. ❑ Please contact me.
- ❑ I want to become a member of Enlight Atlanta.

We are very grateful for your support and encouragement. With your help, we will succeed in our efforts to end bias and harassment in our schools.

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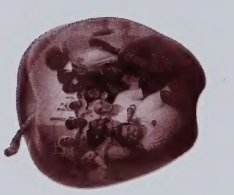

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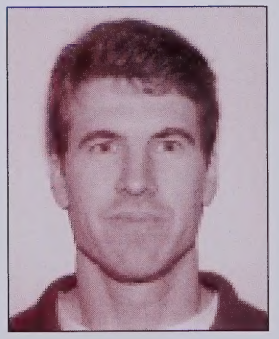

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- [ ] I am aware of a need that Enlight Atlanta can address.
- [ ] I want to donate:
  - [ ] Check enclosed.
  - [ ] Please contact me.
- [ ] I want to become a member of Enlight Atlanta.

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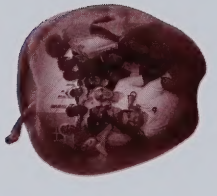

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